

BRAC IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY – November 15, 2011

- **John Carman called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.**
- **Vince Brannigan introduced himself as the new representative for the East Bethesda Citizens Association.**
- **The Committee agreed to cancel the December 20, 2011 meeting. The next meeting will be January 17, 2012.**
- **Phil Alperson, the County's BRAC Coordinator, provided the following updates:**
 - **THE BRAC MOBILITY PROJECTS MATRIX IS POSTED ON THE BRAC WEB SITE.** It has been updated through November 2, 2011 and reflects the multi-modal approach the County, State and other stakeholders are taking to address the transportation impacts of BRAC in Bethesda – transit improvements, pedestrian and bicycle enhancements, intersection upgrades, transportation demand management, etc.
 - http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/exec/brac/pdf/transpo_project_matrix-110211.pdf
 - **THE “TIERS AND PHASES” OF BRAC PROJECTS** based on funding is also posted on the web site. The Tiers and Phases were developed by MDOT and MCDOT with input from the BIC in October 2009, and the summary text has been revised through September 19, 2011.
 - **Matrix developed by MDOT-MCDOT, October 2009:**
<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/exec/brac/pdf/bracprojects-tiers-100609.pdf>
 - **Summary of Tiers & Phases, updated September 19, 2011:**
<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/exec/brac/pdf/tiersphases-summary-revised-091911.pdf>
 - **PRINTABLE TIMELINE: ANTICIPATED CONSTRUCTION-RELATED TRAFFIC DISRUPTIONS IN BETHESDA (AS OF 9-15-11):**
<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/exec/brac/pdf/disruptionstimeline-041111.pdf>
 - **Summary of BRAC Transportation Projects and Commuting Options**
http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/brctmpl.asp?url=/content/exec/brac/projects_glance.asp

- **7-26-11 State Highway Administration update on the Intersections Improvement project, with the potential availability of OEA funding**
http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/exec/brac/pdf/mcdot-sha_intersectionsschedule-oea_fundingupdate-072611.pdf
- **WALTER REED NATIONAL MILITARY MEDICAL CENTER FORMALLY DEDICATED IN NOVEMBER 10 RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY.**
 - **11-10-11 U.S. Department of Defense News Release: Panetta Dedicates New Bethesda Military Medical Center**
<http://www.defense.gov/news/newsarticle.aspx?id=66035>
- **CONSTRUCTION UPDATE IN DOWNTOWN BETHESDA:** The closure of Woodmont Avenue between Bethesda Avenue and Leland Street will begin in January and last approximately 20 months to accommodate the construction of a new mixed use development. Construction should last about three years overall.
 - **10-24-11 Washington Post: Downtown Bethesda braces for 3 years of tighter parking and more traffic**
http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/commuting/downtown-bethesda-braces-for-3-years-of-tighter-parking-and-more-traffic/2011/10/18/g1QAohHeAM_story.html
- **THE OTHER BRAC IN BETHESDA: RE-USE OF THE NATIONAL GEOSPATIAL-INTELLIGENCE AGENCY SITE AS THE ICC-B -- INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY CAMPUS-BETHESDA:** There may be another public meeting in late November with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers about plans to renovate the NGA campus on Sangamore Road in the Sumner area of Bethesda.
 - **11-9-11 Gazette.Net: Bethesda residents want improvements as agencies relocate to Sangamore Road -- Intelligence Community Campus-Bethesda will replace geospatial agency**
<http://www.gazette.net/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20111109/NEWS/711099547/1007/news%26source%3DRSS%26template%3Dgazette&updfcache=1&template=gazette>
- **UPDATE ON \$300 MILLION OFFICE OF ECONOMIC ADJUSTMENT FUND FOR TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS NEAR MILITARY MEDICAL FACILITIES:**
 - **BETHESDA BRAC PROJECT PROPOSALS:** Phil reported that DoD's Office of Economic Adjustment had accepted five of the six project proposals submitted by Montgomery County's Department of Transportation and the Maryland State

Highway Administration totaling \$88.9 Million out of \$90 million requested. The accepted proposals are \$40 million for the Metro Crossing Project and a total of \$48.9 million for the four intersections improvement projects. OEA did not accept a \$1.1 million proposal to extend the Bethesda Trolley Trail and construct a passenger drop-off along Old Georgetown Road. The approved funds, once awarded through a required non-competitive grant process, will supplement the \$28.1 million already committed to the Metro Crossing project by the Defense Department, and approximately \$39 million in State and federal funds that are already programmed for the intersections. The approved proposals are:

- **\$40 million MCDOT proposal for the Maryland Route 355 Crossing Project (supplementing \$28 million in DAR funds):**
http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/exec/brac/pdf/oea_transpog_rants-crossingprojectsubmission-100711.pdf
- **\$19 million SHA proposal for unfunded phases of Bethesda BRAC Improvements at MD 355 (Rockville Pike) and West Cedar Lane/Cedar Lane:**
http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/exec/brac/pdf/oea_transpog_rants-md355_cedar_projectsubmission-100711.pdf
- **\$18.3 million SHA proposal for unfunded phases of Bethesda BRAC Improvements at MD 185 (Connecticut Avenue) and Jones Bridge Road/Kensington Parkway:**
http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/exec/brac/pdf/oea_transpog_rants-md185_jbr_projectsubmission-100711.pdf
- **\$7.3 million SHA proposal for Bethesda BRAC Improvements at MD 187 (Old Georgetown Road) and West Cedar Lane/Oakmont Avenue:**
http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/exec/brac/pdf/oea_transpog_rants-md187_cedar_projectsubmission-100711.pdf
- **\$4.3 million SHA proposal for unfunded phases of Bethesda BRAC Improvements at MD 355 (Rockville Pike) and Jones Bridge Road/Center Drive:**
http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/exec/brac/pdf/oea_transpog_rants-md355_jbr_projectsubmission-100711.pdf
- **11-1-11 Montgomery County News Release: Leggett Praises \$90 Million Federal Funding for Transit, Road & Pedestrian Improvements in Bethesda; Projects will address increased traffic related to BRAC at the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center**
http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/apps/News/press/PR_details.asp?PrID=8010

- **OEA PROJECT SUBMISSIONS FROM OTHER COMMUNITIES WITH BRAC-IMPACTED MILITARY MEDICAL FACILITIES:** Phil reported that OEA approved eight projects overall, totaling \$299.6 million. The three other projects are. :
 - Fairfax County VA -- \$180 million, Fort Belvoir Community Hospital,
 - San Antonio TX -- \$25 million, San Antonio Military Medical Center, and
 - Lakewood WA -- \$5.7 million. Madigan Army Medical Center.
 - **11-1-11 U.S. Department of Defense News Release: Defense Officials Distribute BRAC Traffic Money**
<http://www.defense.gov/news/newsarticle.aspx?id=65908>
- **FUTURE OF THE BRAC IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE:** Phil and Ken Hartman reported that the County Executive's office will move forward with the plan to allow the BIC to continue under a working relationship with the Western Montgomery Citizens Advisory Board. With John Carman retiring as Chairman, Ken will solicit a new BIC Chairman from the WMCAB board. The Committee will determine its operating schedule and other procedures but it is expected that the Committee will meet less frequently. Phil will continue to staff the Committee as long as his OEA grant permits. The January 17, 2012 meeting will be the first under this new arrangement.
- **COMMUNITY UPDATES:**
 - Richard Levine of Locust Hill noted that his community has significant concerns about Phase 4 of the MD 355/Cedar Lane interection improvements. This project, which would be funded under the recent \$88.9 million OEA announcement, would add a new northbound lane from North Wood Drive to Locust Hill Avenue through the Cedar Lane intersection, and could entail SHA claiming its Right-of-Way on the access road that parallels MD 355, and possibly as much as four feet of ROW adjacent to the access road. SHA has noted that the access road will remain, but might need to be shifted four feet. Locust Hill is also concerned about the possible addition of a sidewalk at that site, which could infringe on the neighborhood. The community is forming a Transportation Committee and is planning to meet with SHA in the near future in an effort to work out their differences.
 - Debbie Michaels noted that SHA posted notices in her Glenbrook Village neighborhood about a pending federally-funded project to make curbs and sidewalks ADA-compliant. Debbie contacted SHA to alert them of the pending BRAC-related projects affecting the same curbs and sidewalks, so that the projects could be coordinated. Christina Minkler of SHA said that they would indeed be coordinated.

- **SHA PRESENTATION RE: IMPACTS ON NIH OF THE INTERSECTIONS IMPROVEMENT PROJECT AT ROCKVILLE PIKE/CEDAR LANE**
 - Christina Minkler provided conceptual designs of how the Cedar Lane intersection project would impact landscaping on the NIH campus. Essentially, any plantings that will be disturbed by construction will be replaced on a one-to-one basis. The SHA presentation will be posted on the web site when it is received.
- **SHA PRESENTATION: FOLLOW-UP ON SIGNAL MONITORING AT MD 355/NORTH WOOD DRIVE.**
 - Matt Snare and Ben Myrick provided an update on the monitoring of traffic at the new signal placed at North Wood Drive. The presentation is posted on the web site with this summary. The AM signal provides good ingress to the Navy campus without causing neighborhood gridlock because the Navy peak takes place earlier than the AM peak for others. As predicted, the PM signal gives significant relief to vehicles queued up trying to leave the Navy campus in the afternoon. Backups have been reduced by as much as 75%. However, the PM signal has increased backups significantly at NIH/Wilson Drive, with slight increases along northbound Rockville Pike south of North Wood Drive. There was much discussion about the impacts the PM signal is having on area neighborhoods, with anecdotal reports that backups along Rockville Pike are worse than these numbers represent. Debbie Michaels observed that this signal is a compromise within the community around Navy Med, noting that the increased backups are not as significant as the relief provided to the Navy. Debbie noted that cars were often subject to 45-minute waits to exit the campus before the signal was installed. Ben Myrick noted that the signal will continue to be monitored and adjusted.
 - **SHA Presentation: MD 355/North Wood Drive: Signal Monitoring Program Update:**
http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/exec/brac/pdf/sha-bic_presentation-signalmonitoring-111511.pdf
- **John Carman solicited additional comments from the public.**
 - **Richard Hoyer urged Montgomery County to implement Bike Sharing and Bike Stations in downtown Bethesda and at the Medical Center.**
- **THANKS FROM COUNTY EXECUTIVE LEGGETT TO JOHN CARMAN AND THE MEMBERS OF THE BRAC IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE.** As John Carman steps down after nearly five years as Committee Chairman, County Executive Leggett honored him and

the Committee for their hard work that helped lead to the design and funding of projects to mitigate BRAC-related traffic. Phil presented a letter from Mr. Leggett to John, and certificates of appreciation to the Committee members, signed by Mr. Leggett.

- **The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m. The December 2011 meeting has been cancelled. The next Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 17, 2012, 7:30 p.m., at the BCC Regional Services Center.**

Committee members in attendance, November 15, 2011:

Phil Alperson, County BRAC Coordinator
Vince Brannigan, East Bethesda Citizens Association
John Carman, Chairman, BRAC Implementation Committee
Richard Levine for Dawn Chaikin, Locust Hill Citizens Association
Larry Cole, Maryland-National Capital Park & Planning Commission
Edgar Gonzalez, Montgomery County Dept. of Transportation
Leslie Weber for Brian Gragnolati, Suburban Hospital
Ken Hartman, Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services Center
Janet Maalouf, Maplewood Citizens Association
Debbie Michaels, Glenbrook Village Homeowners Association
Sara Morningstar, Montgomery County Office of Intergovernmental Relations
Patrick O'Neil, Greater Bethesda-Chevy Chase Chamber of Commerce
Andy Scott, Maryland dept. of Transportation
Richard Vogel, Stone Ridge School
Phil Neuberg for Dan Wheeland, National Institutes of Health

Ex-officio:

Ken Reichard (Senator Ben Cardin)
Joan Kleinman (Rep. Chris Van Hollen)
Chad Bolt (Council Member Roger Berliner)
Captain Fritz Kass, Naval Support Activity-Bethesda
Jeff Miller, Naval Support Activity-Bethesda

Other Attendees

Nancy Abeles, Bethesda Crest
Oya Bain, Locust Hill Citizens Association
Karen Bauer, Locust Hill Citizens Association
Rebecca Carroll, Naval Facilities Command
Chris Dalton, State Highway Administration
Sandy Dean, Walter Reed NMMC
Erin Donahue, Bethesda Patch
Carl Gentilcore, Locust Hill Citizens Association
Jan Marmor, Locust Hill Citizens Association
Marilyn Mazuzan, Town of Oakmont
Avice Meehan, Howard Hughes Medical Institute

Christina Minkler, State Highway Administration
Jeanette Musil, DoD Office of Economic Adjustment
Ben Myrick, State Highway Administration
Tom Robertson, Bethesda Urban Partnership
Alex Ruoff, Gazette Newspapers
William Sadlon, NAVFAC Washington
Matt Snare, State Highway Administration
Ken Strickland, Chevy Chase Valley
Michael Weil, National Capital Planning Commission
Julie Woepke, Maryland Dept. of Business & Economic Development